



ZAMBIAN OPEN UNIVERSITY

**TRANSFORMING AND REFORMING TO ADVANCE QUALITY
EDUCATION**

Speech Delivered by the Chancellor, Professor Francis Yamba, at the
9th Graduation Ceremony, held at the Newfoundland Campus, Lusaka.

September 1st, 2017

- The Chairperson and Members of the Board of the Zambian Open University;

- The Vice Chancellor of the Zambian Open University;

-Vice-Chancellors and Deputy Vice Chancellors from sister Universities;

-Registrar, Deans, and Directors of the Zambian Open University and their counterparts from sister Universities;

-Academic and Support Staff of the Zambian Open University;

-Distinguished Invited Guests;

- Parents and Guardians;

-Dear Graduands;

-Members of the Press;

-Ladies and Gentlemen

It is a great pleasure for me, to warmly and sincerely welcome all of you to the
Zambian Open University - Newfoundland Campus, this morning. Today is indeed
a very momentous day for the University as we celebrate the first graduation
programme to be held on our own campus. This had long been our desire and we
are truly happy to get there. I am therefore delighted for the opportunity to confer
diplomas and degrees of the University at this the 9th Graduation Ceremony of the
Zambian Open University, and on this historic day.

I would like to recognize today's Graduands and to congratulate all of you on your
achievement today. The hard work that you have put in, and the sacrifices that you
have made over the years have now culminated into your success and a cause for
celebration. I am sure that you feel a sense of accomplishment and relief at the
same time. Enjoy this day and celebrate because you deserve it.

Let me also welcome all the parents, guardians, families and sponsors who have
come to witness the success of the Graduands. This day is also for you to rejoice
and celebrate. Over the past years many of you supported and made sacrifices so
that your loved ones may be able to complete their studies successfully. I am sure

that now you can rest a bit and lead more normal lives. You too deserve all the congratulations. Well done.

The Zambian Open University is always glad when visitors, friends, colleagues and invited guests join us in celebration, such as on a day like this. I therefore warmly welcome all our friends that are present with us.

Dear Graduands

After a long journey of academic discipline, perseverance, and social sacrifices, you are now prepared to begin the next part of their professional journey. This transition is many times filled with mixed emotions of joy and anxiety. While registered as students at ZAOU, lecturers and fellow students provided the comfort of support and guidance that you needed. But as you now leave school, the future ahead may involve dealing with promotion and added responsibilities for those that already have jobs. It could also be the process of looking for employment, or indeed, starting up an enterprise. These responsibilities make for anxieties.

Whatever the case, there will be changes that occur to your lives. Accept them and face these with optimism and determination.

Dear Graduands

You have concluded your studies at a time when the whole world is just a little more complicated. Several events at home and abroad call our attention and raise concerns in our minds. I am sure they are important to you because they will have a telling effect on your lives. The world and national economy have constricted and the cost of living is unstable. In all of these, you have to raise families and aspire for a comfortable living. How will you balance out these demands?

There is no doubt that the world is in need of transformation and reformation. Whether it is the economy, jobs, environment, health, or, other. The times have more challenges. The gap between the rich and the poor is getting wider. We are seeing deep divides among people, as extremism is on the rise. These types of challenges lead to desperation, and corruption of society. We may then ask ourselves: “what is our world turning into?”

Dear Graduands

The training that you have received from ZAOU is to equip you to be better enlightened, and be better persons. As you step into the world, therefore, you must become agents of change. You must be persons who seek to make our world a

kinder and gentler place to live in. As the saying goes, “without motion there can be no change.” The education that you have received is energy for motion, and so you must cause positive change in our society. Each one of you ought to contribute to transform and reform how we think and do things. For you, doing that which is right, that which is good, and being a part of the solution should not be negotiable. So, go into the world and be the change that brings about transformation and reformation of society.

Vice Chancellor

I congratulate you upon your appointment to office as the third Vice Chancellor of the Zambian Open University. I also acknowledge the new Board of Directors led by Professor Jotham Momba as Chairperson. It is my prayer that you will all score many successes during your tenures in office in order to move ZAOU forward.

Vice Chancellor

I am happy to receive your report on some of the accomplishments of the University since the last graduation ceremony, as well as plans for the future. It is noteworthy and gratifying that the performance of ZAOU graduates is among the

top in the country. I encourage you to continue to lead the academic and support staff with determination, and not to relent on the efforts.

The plans that you have, to transform curriculum delivery through technology and creative delivery systems, is commendable. As you have correctly recognized, infrastructure development will be essential for better service delivery and to grow your student population. I therefore encourage you to make this a priority objective.

The tertiary education sector is increasingly competitive and only the quality of the education and programmes that you offer will separate you from the rest. This means that you must continue to work hard to develop new and innovative programmes. As a leading university in Zambia, I wish to encourage you and your team to work hard in the coming years so that ZAOU can carve out a niche for itself as a leading center of research excellence. In this regard you will need to strengthen the School of Graduate Studies.

Vice Chancellor

The contributions of the Shareholders, the Board, staff, students and Management to another successful academic year cannot go unmentioned. It is important to continue to nurture the spirit of fraternity and team work which has produced positive results. I therefore acknowledge the hard work that each member of staff has contributed in order to support the Graduands to where they are today, and to earning our University the great reputation that it enjoys. Thank you and congratulations.

Ladies and Gentlemen

As I conclude my remarks, I want to again welcome all of you and acknowledge today's Graduands. I wish you well in your careers in the years ahead.

Congratulations to you all. Enjoy your day.

I thank you, and may God bless us all.